

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Minutes of the Meeting 2005-04

held

Friday, September 23, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. in Room EV2. 184

Present:

N. Esmail (Chair)
S. Alkass
B. Ashtakala
M. Atici
R. Bhat
T. Bui
A. Bulgak
D. Cueva
M. Debbabi
R. Dssouli
T. Fancott
W. Ghaly
L. Harris
S. Hoa
C. Lam
W. Lynch

B. Mackenzie
S. Mudur
M. Mulrennan
M. Olsthoorn
C. Paradisis
M. Paraschivoiu
M. Pugh
L. Quesnel
T. Radhakrishnan
A. Ramamurthy
Y. Shayan
M. Soleymani
G. Sullivan
S. Tahar
C. Trueman

M. Zaheeruddin
R. Zmeureanu

G. Bolduc
(Secretary of Council)

Observers:

S. Ghaderpanah

Regrets:

T. Fevens
M. Hajiaboli
R. Islan
F. Khendek

C. Lajeunesse
S. Naureen
R. Paknys
M. Singer

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion
2005-04-01

That the revised Agenda be adopted as submitted (R. Dssouli, B. Ashtakala)

Vote: Carried unanimously

2. Adoption of the Minutes of Council Meeting 2005-03

Motion
2005-04-02

That the minutes of Council Meeting 2005-03 (May 30, 2005) with Appendix A be adopted as submitted (C. Lam, R. Dssouli)

Vote: Carried unanimously

3. Chair's Remarks

Opening Remarks: This Meeting of the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science is a milestone in the history of this Faculty. For the first time, members are holding a Meeting of the Council in this new state-of-the-art building, located downtown. The Chair informs us that this building has been accepted in the city circle as one of the most beautiful building in the city of Montreal. This in itself is an achievement. However, we are living a historical moment states the Chair because the real achievements lie in both the reality that the synergy between faculty members and students will be greatly enhanced, they are true owners of this new building, and most important; there is now an impressive concentration of brain power in one building working on Engineering and Information Systems, certainly a first in Montreal – an impressive concentration of higher knowledge shared by students, professors and support people.

Of the 660 rooms in this one building only 295 are allocated to staff. We therefore have 365 working rooms for graduate students. As we speak, 2000 access cards are being issued of which 1,700 are for our graduate students alone. This is a proud moment for Concordia as we have moved from a situation where people were learning in different locations throughout our university campuses whereas now, people are all under one roof.

The Chair informs us that Dr. Claude Lajeunesse, our new President, is also very impressed with the idea behind this new building which is both the creation of an enhanced synergy, concentrated between the 2nd and 6th floor, as well as how people are spaced in this building. The President has decided to hold the Senate on the 2nd floor of this building on a trial basis. The first meeting of the Senate is scheduled for October 14, 2005 and if successful, the Senate will continue to meet at our location. Many changes are anticipated and the pulse will be monitored.

Enrolment: There has been a continuous increase in enrolment for the academic years starting in 1996 to 2003 and then Concordia suffered a significant decrease in the following years. This decrease is due to two factors. On the one hand, Concordia followed the wave of decrease, felt across the country regarding enrolment. The second factor is directly related to the struggle with the duration of Master Research Students Study as discussed last year. The chair advises us that although in the enrolment academic year of 2003 and 2004 there was an increase of students, the FTE count decreased by 20%. This percentage represents the number of student moving outside the financial subsidy of government in view of the extended duration of Master Research. The same phenomenon is to be expected with Ph.D. students, whose phase is three years, before they move outside the domain of finances. The impact on the Faculty however should be less significant.

This year we expect a continued decline in enrolment for Engineering and Computer Science. This decline in undergraduate and graduate programs is in part due to the employment situation. While last year we suffered a loss of 4 millions, this year we anticipate loosing 1.5 million dollars as the current trend levels off. We note that Master Research has recovered a third of what it lost last year.

If we compare the enrolment trend of Concordia to other universities, we note that Concordia has the best enrolment in Canada. This year, the University of Montreal's Polytechnique enrolled 45 students while McMaster enrolled only 14. Concordia accepted 120 students this year. This is a tribute to professors, staff and everybody who worked hard at providing education.

Faculty objectives: The objective is to preserve the right number of faculty members. The Faculty will continue to hire with caution to pursue this objective. The Chair firmly believes that we must

preserve programs of support for Research because it is responsible for the well being of the Faculty. On the other hand, we must adjust to the current trend and therefore, compared to last year, chairs will need to work with 15% less in their budget.

The Chair informs us that the teaching situation has improved tremendously. If the principle of egalitarianism is followed, then everybody has to teach. Tier 1 Chairs will teach 3 courses and professors doing less research will teach 4 courses. The Chair firmly believes that this is the path to follow. The Chair does not believe that teaching remission should escalate because of the number of graduate students we currently have and because supervising students is the most intensive part of Research.

Miscellaneous Remarks: The chair informs Council Members that the Faculty is fortunate to have Ms. Christina Ohrvall join our group. She is an excellent research writer.

We also welcome 2 new Deans in both The Faculty of Fine Arts and The Faculty of Arts and Science. The chair informs us that the dynamic in these faculties may change as well.

We are honoured to have Dean Sacca with us today and we welcome her at our meeting.

We welcome Ms. Guylaine Bolduc as Assistant to the Dean and Secretary of Council and we wish her success at Concordia.

The Chair reminds us that we have renewal of funding in the Canada Foundation for Innovation and it is hoped all will take advantage of this opportunity in terms of applications. It is important that this university draws its fair share of funding in this area.

As a member of Mechanical Engineering, I have received a document on guidelines for instructions on how to conduct courses and teaching. I hope that this document is also being circulated to faculty members in other departments.

Today, for the first time, Dr. Shayan is attending the Council Meeting in his new capacity as Chair of ECE and we wish him success.

Closing Remarks: With the change of President we must anticipate changes in the Concordia administration. I believe these changes will reflect a more dynamic Concordia, a better Concordia.

4. Undergraduate Curriculum Proposal for 2005-2006 – Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (Doc. ECFC 2005-04-01)

A new slot course, MECH 498A – Applied Ordinary Differential Equations, has been introduced in September of this year and is currently being taught by Dr. Vatistas. The objective is to provide students with a number of soft skills to improve their design skills. The approach is that of taking an engineering problem and translating it into a mathematical and/or scientific problem to solve. This course is offered as an alternative to EMAT 213 and it is hoped that at the next Faculty Council Meeting we will have a permanent change.

EMAT 213 and 233 are being re-evaluated with the objective of replacing them by ENGR 213 and 233.

**Motion
2005-04-03**

That the introduction of a new slot course as set out in Doc. ECFC2005-04-01 be approved by Council

Vote: Carried Unanimously (M. Pugh, R. Dssouli)

5. Graduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2006-2007 – Computer Science and Software Engineering - Program and Course changes as set out in Doc. ECFC 2005-04-02

As Dr. Bhat is presently away in India to develop our relationship with IIT, Dr. Lynch explains that the proposals set out in the above-mentioned document are essentially an adjustment and a re-alignment with current courses requirements and content. The course *COMP 5121 Fortran for Engineers and Scientists* will be deleted while the other core courses have undergone a change in title and content description to reflect actual courses curriculum.

Motion
2005-04-04

That the deletion of a course along with title and description changes of core courses in the program of Computer Science as set out in Document ECFC 2005-04-02 be approved by Council

Vote: Carried Unanimously (B. Lynch, C. Lam)

6. Graduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2006-2007 – Computer Science and Software Engineering New Program/courses as set out in Doc. ECFC2005-04-03

The addition of two new courses COMPS 6531 Foundation of the semantic web and COMP 7661 Advanced Rendering and Animation, has been extremely successful. The number of students in each course exceeds 25 people. These courses create great interest among students. We note that the course COMP 7661 is a speciality of Dr. Pugh.

Motion
2005-04-05

That the addition of two new courses as set out in Document ECFC 2005-04-03 for Computer Science and Software Engineering be approved by Council

Vote: Carried unanimously (B. Lynch, C. Lam)

7. Graduate Curriculum Proposals for the 2006-2007 – Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Program requirement changes to Master's Program as set out in Doc. ECFC 2005-04-04

The objective of the proposal to the Master program requirements is to offer option courses which will provide specialisation in order to better prepare students for the workplace.

Motion
2005-04-06

That the Program requirement changes to the Master's Program as set out in Doc. ECFC 2005-04-04 be approved by Council

Vote: Carried unanimously (B. Lynch, S. Hoa)

Open Session:

Motion
2005-04-08

9. That the appointment of Dr. William E. Lynch as member of the Senate's Standing Committee for a 3-year term effective June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2008 be approved by Council

Vote: Carried unanimously (R. Dssouli, M. Debbabi)

Motion
2005-04-09

10. That the appointment of Dr. Abdel Sebak as Faculty representative and Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee for a 2- year term effective June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2007 be approved by Council

Vote: Carried unanimously (B. Lynch, M. Pugh)

Motion
2005-04-10

11. That the appointment of Dr. Rabin Raut, Dr. John Zhang and Dr. Kamran Siddiqui as representative on the Senate's Faculty Tribunal Pool for a 2-year term effective June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2007 be approved by Council

Vote: Carried unanimously (M. Pugh, A. Ramamurthy)

Motion
2005-04-11

12. That the appointment of Dr. Chunyan Wang to the Senate's University Library Committee for a 3-year term effective June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2008 be approved by Council

Vote: Carried unanimously (R. Zmeureanu, M. Soleymani)

Motion
2005-04-12

13. That the appointment of Dr. Radhadkrishnan Thiruvengadam to the Senate's Finance Committee for a 3-year term effective June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2008 be approved by Council

Vote: Carried unanimously (C. Lam, L. Harris)

14. A reception is held in the Atrium this evening at 6 P.M. to introduce Chairs and Directors to all graduate research students and master students.

The Meeting is adjourned at 3:15 P.M.